BENGALURU, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

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URBAN LANDSCAPING

Visible, high-impact transformations on the cards for 27 sites chosen under new initiative that aims to bridge infra gap

PAGE 4

FAREWELL, OLD FRIEND

Tenants, citizens speak fondly of Hatworks Boulevard that is set to make way for high-rise

PAGE 5

Police Commissioner issues fresh circular reiterating that all 60 Neravu Mahila Kendras in city must be fully functional with adequate staff, preferably women, as several centres fall out of use

HELP IS ON ITS WAY

Staff shortage said to be main reason for disuse of kiosks

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Nearly 60 help desks set up across Bengaluru under the Nirbhaya scheme to support women and children have turned largely non-functional, with very few visitors approaching them. The initiative has failed to serve its purpose as there are no female police personnel at these kiosks, officials say.

A severe shortage of women staff has forced the police to deploy male personnel at several of these centres. Taking note of the gaps, the City Police Commissioner has issued strict instructions directing that all help desks must mandatorily be manned by women staff. Jurisdictional Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) have also been told to regularly monitor their functioning.

Fresh orders have now been issued to all DCPs to ensure that the 60 women's outposts established under the Bengaluru Safe City project remain fully operational, especially with adequate female deployment. The directive comes after reports that some centres could not offer timely assistance due to the absence of women officers.

According to the circular, these outposts, known as Neravu Mahila Kendras, generally located near schools, colleges, bus stands, railway stations, busy junctions and other high-footfall areas, were created to provide immediate support to women facing distress or violence. While guidelines issued in 2023 had already mandated the presence of women staff, several locations were found to be non-compliant.

Under the revised instructions, DCPs are now responsible for the proper functioning, staffing and maintenance of each outpost. They must ensure duty registers are updated, complaints are recorded, and beat staff

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

Neravu Mahila Kendras are generally located near schools, colleges, bus stands, railway stations or busy junctions

"If women staff are unavailable, men can be deployed, but the outpost must function. They should attend to any complaint, especially since these centres are placed in crowded areas

—Police official

Yes, but wait for it

After 2-year delay, Central Zoo Authority okays vulture breeding centre at BBP, but says Supreme Court go-ahead needed

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Karnataka's long wait for its first-ever vulture breeding centre at Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) just got longer.

After a nearly two-year delay, the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has cleared the way for the centre, but other hurdles remain before it can see the light of day.

The CZA has now cited a requirement for approval from the Supreme Court for the project, Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) sources said.

"After repeated enquiries by us on the status of approval, CZA, in a recent meeting with its technical committee, has cleared the proposal. However, the Department now needs approval from the Supreme Court, based on a previous order by SC stating that any establishment in a protected area must obtain the apex court's approval," informed Prabhash Chandra Ray, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka Forest Department (KFD).

KFD is currently waiting to receive official approval papers from CZA, following which, an interlocutory application will be filed with SC for the final nod.

"Once we receive the documents from CZA, we will move to SC and file an IA.

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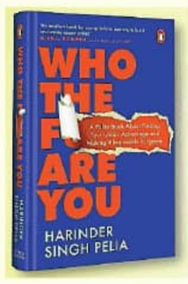
THINGS TO DO

01 Journey within



Atta Galatta is organising a discussion on 'Who the F Are You?' by Harinder Singh Pelia. The book offers a sharp, practical guide to breaking out of professional invisibility. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: Nov 29, 3 pm**

02 Resonant rhythms

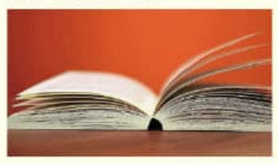
After the huge success of the first edition, Sitar Rama Rao Utsav is back with a 2nd edition. The festival celebrates the life and music of one of Karnataka's own sons, Pandit NR Rama Rao. The show will feature performances by renowned stalwarts of the music world. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleshwaram; When: November 28, 6 pm**

03 Curtain call

Primetime Theatre Co is presenting 'Dance like a Man', directed by Lilette Dubey, delving into the lives of two Bharatanatyam dancers past their prime, contrasting their struggles with that of their daughter, who is on the verge of becoming a successful dancer. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: December 6, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm**

04 Lit happens

Bangalore Literature Festival, the city's flagship literary event, is all set for a spectacular fourteenth edition. The two-day event will feature a host of authors and speakers, including renowned novelists and fiction writers. **Where: Freedom Park; When: December 6 and 7, 9 am onwards**



05 Melodious evening

The South Asian Symphony Orchestra returns to Bengaluru for an unforgettable evening built around one of humanity's most powerful musical statements—Beethoven's Ninth Symphony—with over 120 musicians on stage. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: November 29, 7 pm**

Kicking past limits

India's first football team composed entirely of HIV-positive individuals aim to break stigma, build confidence, and empower those living with HIV through power of sport

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Conceptualised by Elvis Joseph, sports management professional and Founder-Director of the Bangalore Schools Sports Foundation, the sports programme 'Champion In Me' has emerged as a landmark initiative in India. Positioned at the intersection of athletics and social change, it seeks to transform sports into a platform for healing, dignity, and empowerment. More than a sporting effort, it is framed as a human rights movement, a public health innovation, and a youth-led revolution aimed at challenging the stigma surrounding HIV.

For more than a decade, the 'Champion in Me' sports programme has empowered vulnerable children and youth through sport. Now, it takes a historic leap by launching the world's first football team composed entirely of HIV-positive individuals representing India on the global stage.

This pioneering initiative unites sports, health literacy, mental well-being, skill development, and rights-based advocacy to create a new narrative for millions living with HIV.

At a time when silence continues to surround children and youth living with HIV, the 'Champion In Me' football team stands boldly at the centre of the field, confident, visible, and victorious. This is India's first football programme for HIV-positive children and youth, created to break stigma, build confidence, and empower those living with HIV through the power of sport. Every athlete represents resilience, every match is an act of defiance against discrimination, and every jersey carries the message.

In a world still fighting myths, fear, and silence around HIV, the football team rises as a global symbol of courage, dignity, and unstoppable human potential. This is not merely a football team, it is a movement, a declaration and a living testimony that every child and youth living with HIV deserves equality, opportunity, and the right to dream fearlessly.

Pioneering initiative unites sports, health literacy, mental well-being, skill development, and rights-based advocacy to create new narrative for those living with HIV

Born from the belief that every child deserves the right to play, dream, and thrive, the Bangalore Schools Sports Foundation uses sports programmes as a catalyst to improve physical health, emotional resilience, and social integration.

The programme seeks to rewrite the narrative: those living with HIV are not victims but victors, defined not by the disease but by their potential.

Plans are also underway to establish India's first sports academy for HIV-positive youth—a full-fledged, non-residential training centre to nurture talent.

Through football, continued education, health literacy, psycho-social empowerment, and leadership development, the programme and team are on the way to becoming a global model of inclusion aligned with India's National HIV Mission and the WHO–UNAIDS 2030 Goals.

The football club has become a safe, structured, empowering ecosystem, a model that can be replicated nationwide. India now makes history sharing a powerful message to the world by showing what true inclusion looks like.

Ending stigma & discrimination

Aligning with WHO–UNAIDS 2030 Agenda, the team aims to directly support the following:

1. Ending AIDS as a public health threat
2. Reducing stigma, discrimination & human rights violations
3. Youth empowerment through community-led initiatives
4. Using sports as a tool for health promotion and resilience.

Through these, the athletes become ambassadors of the global HIV response, carrying India's commitment to health equity onto the world stage.

Equal participation key to national growth, says former Chief Secretary

Women must be equipped, mentored and supported at the right time for any nation to achieve balanced economic growth, said K Ratnaprabha, President of the Ubuntu Consortium and former Karnataka Chief Secretary. At the United Economic Summit 2025 in Malaysia, where she led India's delegation, she stressed that a healthy nation requires equal opportunities for both men and women. Ratnaprabha, invited as Guest of Honour and keynote speaker, received international recognition for her work in women's entrepreneurship and economic diplomacy. Reflecting on her public service career, she recalled how interactions with numerous women entrepreneur associations inspired the formation of the Ubuntu Consortium. "Many groups were working in isolation within their limited spaces. We felt the need to unite, collaborate and grow together," she said. That idea took shape in 2019, the year she retired as Karnataka's Chief Secretary. Today, Ubuntu comprises more than 60 associations across 12 states, collectively supporting nearly 30,000 women entrepreneurs. **— BMB**

Giant Nephila spider spotted in Gadag

Nature enthusiasts in Gadag's Sirahatti taluk are abuzz after the discovery of a giant Nephila spider. Belonging to the orb-weaving family, this colossal arachnid—known as the Giant Wood Spider or Golden Orb-Weaving Spider—is famed for its massive size and striking yellow, glistening webs. While ordinary spiders measure just 3–5 mm, female Nephila spiders can grow up to 3 inches, with tiny males barely reaching 5 mm to 1 cm, usually living on the outskirts of the female's web. The rare find was documented by biodiversity researchers Manjunath S Nayak, Sangamesh Kadag, and Sharanu Gowda. **— BMB**

Dasara-style makeover planned for historic Karaga festival

The hugely successful Kadlekai Parishe at Basavanagudi has inspired the government to plan a grand Dasara-style upgrade for Bengaluru's historic Karaga Utsava. Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy said a review meeting with temple leaders and officials will be held in January to craft a blueprint that brings cultural events to city circles and delivers an unprecedented level of splendour. Reddy noted that over 12 lakh visitors thronged the Parishe. The fair generated 135 tonnes of waste, all scientifically cleared; plastic bags were seized and cloth bags distributed. Around 800 police personnel, hundreds of CCTVs and drone surveillance ensured crowd safety throughout the event. **— BMB**

Asphalting work begins on Sarjapur Road

Sarjapur Road, one of the city's key arterial corridors, currently carries nearly three times the traffic it was originally designed for, with volumes surging even higher during peak hours. With rapid residential growth in nearby Gram Panchayat areas like Kodathi, traffic is expected to rise further.

A few months ago, Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao walked along Sarjapur Road to inspect conditions firsthand. One of the key decisions taken during that visit was to make the main carriageway motorable. Although BMRCL's upcoming soil testing initially delayed major works, progress on the project has now begun. After multiple administrative processes and approvals, asphalting work has now officially started. **— BMB**

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Neighbourhood public spaces set for major GBA makeover

Public space improvement mission strengthening community wellbeing using strategic GBA evaluation, design inputs, transparent tracking, outcome-driven execution roadmap

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In a significant move to improve Bengaluru's public environments, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has launched a Citizens' Repository of Neighbourhood-Scale Public Spaces, marking a shift toward participatory, data-driven urban development. The repository was created after residents nominated more than 235 locations across the city, of which 194 were shortlisted after assessments. Since its launch in May, the initiative has reached a key milestone: 27 shortlisted sites have now been selected for immediate upgrades. These locations will be developed using a combined funding pool of ₹53.60 crore from the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) and the ACS fund, support that officials say will enable visible improvements in the first phase.

The programme has been conceptualised jointly by the GBA, Sensing Local, and the Institute of Urban Designers Karnataka, with technical support from the Sustainable Mobility Network. Together, these partners aim to strengthen neighbourhood public spaces through design and transparent monitoring.

Across the 194 assessed sites, citizen feedback shows recurring challenges: infrastructure gaps, waste management failures, and safety concerns appear in more than 70 percent of locations. Residents also express demand for better social spaces and improved walkability—key aspects that shape urban life. Planners say the repository helps by converting scattered complaints into organised, map-based intelligence that guides targeted interventions.

According to Ankit Bhargava, Co-founder of Sensing Local, several shortlisted spaces could attract support beyond government allocations. The goal, he explained, is to

The aim is to create high-visibility projects, and since these are public spaces

create well-designed neighbourhood spaces that reflect community priorities. Because these public spaces belong to residents, the team is exploring philanthropic and CSR partnerships to scale the programme. Bhargava noted that the team has completed visits to 29 shortlisted locations as part of verification and feasibility checks. Alongside technical discussions with the GBA, outreach to corporate foundations and civil society donors has begun. A public exhibition is also planned to help residents understand proposals, offer feedback, and participate in neighbourhood transformation.

> **"While we begin engaging with the GBA, we are also reaching out to philanthropic organisations and CSR funds. We plan to host a public exhibition so that citizens can understand the projects and participate in the process**
> – Ankit Bhargava Co-founder Sensing Local

The repository categorises locations into several types. A major share includes congregation spaces—such as katte zones, village squares, and temple surroundings—that once served as cultural anchors but have been diminished by urbanisation. Another category covers leftover or underused spaces created after infrastructure expansions like road widening or flyover construction. The next group includes multifunctional streets that host markets or festivals but require better design to manage crowds. The final category comprises transport and circulation spaces where high pedestrian and vehicle volumes create safety issues.

A dedicated website https://www.blrpublicspace-revival.in/ now displays all nominated and verified sites. One verified location is JP Nagar 5th Cross, proposed by the Dollars Colony RWA. The plan suggests native trees, shaded seating, permeable walkways, play areas, and community zones. During the visit, the team observed issues such as unmanaged garbage, weak pedestrian access, and inadequate maintenance—factors that justified its inclusion as a redevelopment candidate.

Bhargava said the platform ensures transparency by allowing citizens to track updates. With only 27 sites approved initially, he noted that even if 20 spaces are developed annually, more than 170 locations will remain, highlighting the need for CSR-supported scaling.

Hemalatha, Superintending Engineer for Planning and Coordination at the GBA, said the next stage involves issuing tenders. Each of the city's five corporations will prepare DPRs and invite tenders, with work expected to begin within two to three months. She added that the GBA is open to CSR partnerships and will publish details online to encourage wider participation.

Delayed Hebbal loop gets final deadline push

GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has intensified efforts to complete the long-pending Hebbal flyover loop, directing officials to finish the remaining work within 15 days and open it to traffic. During an inspection across several North Bengaluru stretches, he noted that the KR Puram–city flyover is already operational, and the loop linking the new arm to the existing Hebbal structure is the crucial final connection. The first girder is already in place, concreting is progressing steadily, and he has instructed engineers to install the remaining two girders without delay and close all pending civil tasks. One stretch has been milled and asphalted, and the remaining portion must be completed immediately to ensure smoother and safer vehicle movement.

Engineers also briefed him on the proposed 1.4-km flyover from Esteem Mall on Ballari Road to Manyata Tech Park, with inter-departmental discussions in their final stages. Rao pulled up officials over damaged footpaths near Hebbal Lake, ordering urgent repairs, clearing of dumped garbage, and removal of a fallen electric pole. He reviewed road works in RMV 2nd Stage and Basaveshwar Nagar, seeking swift completion and action on civic-land encroachments. At Nagawara Junction, he directed completion of chamber work and stopping ongoing water leakage. **— BMB**

Metro crowds spike despite limited trains

The Yellow Metro line is witnessing a steady surge in commuters, with over one lakh passengers travelling daily between RV Road and Bommasandra via Electronics City, despite only five trains currently operating. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the line on August 10, services began with just three trains, and two more were added in the past two months. Initially running at 25-minute intervals, trains now arrive every 15 minutes, helping manage peak-hour ridership and offering smoother connectivity for thousands of daily passengers.

BMRCL officials say the sixth train set, already dispatched from Kolkata, is expected to reach Bengaluru this week, which will reduce waiting time to around 12–13 minutes. By December's end, the corridor is likely to have eight trains in service, eventually bringing intervals down to 10 minutes. With the available fleet, the Yellow line covers around 470 km daily, adjusting timings to match commuter density while one train undergoes routine checks each day. BMRCL may revisit early-morning operations once the full fleet is active. **— BMB**

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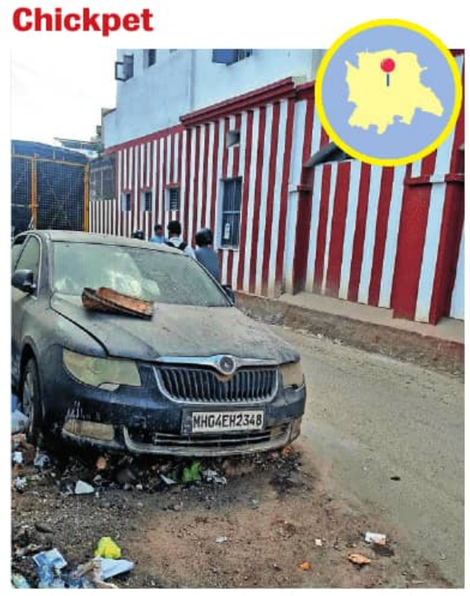

A car has been lying abandoned for several years on Purnayya Chitram Road in Chickpet, near the Balepet crossing, causing inconvenience to commuters and shop owners.

Street blockade

Commercial Street

Double-side parking on Jewellers Street, 4th Cross in Commercial Street has completely choked the stretch, leaving no space for cars to move through.

Ignored complaints

KV Temple Street

A chamber has been leaking for seven days at No. 24, 2nd Cross, KV Temple Street near a school, despite written complaints and no action from authorities.

FIR filed against members of Film Directors' Association

The Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE) has registered an FIR against nine members of Kannada Film Directors' Association for allegedly harassing and humiliating a woman employee of the Kannada Film Directors' Association.

The DCRE registered the FIR under the Sections 3(1)(s) of SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, and under the Section of 77 and 79 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. The complaint was lodged by Shobha Mahesh, working as a receptionist with Kannada Film Directors' Association. According to the complaint, some of the suspended members of the association entered the office illegally and misbehaved with her. In her complaint, she said they took her photographs and addressed her by her caste, which caused her significant trauma.

NRK Vishwanath, President of Kannada Film Directors' Association, said, "I told them (the suspended members) over the phone to meet me later but they allegedly created a nuisance. Directors are supposed to be role models for others. I am not happy with their attitude and behaviour."

— Y Maheswara Reddy

Man dies after being brutally assaulted over alleged affair

A 32-year-old daily wage labourer, who was brutally assaulted by a group of people on Saturday over his alleged affair with a woman, succumbed to his injuries at KC General Hospital. The deceased, identified as Narasimharaja, a resident of Muthyalamma Nagar, died hours after the attack. His family released CCTV footage to the media on Tuesday, demanding immediate arrests. According to his sister, Dhanalakshmi, Narasimharaja had been in a relationship with a widow, Lakshmi, for the past two and a half years. On Saturday afternoon, Lakshmi reportedly arrived at his house and was inside a room when her family members including her father, brothers, and relatives stormed into the house.

They allegedly dragged Narasimharaja outside and assaulted him mercilessly. His mother, who attempted to intervene, was also beaten by the attackers. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead. The family alleged that despite filing a complaint, the accused have not been arrested. They shared CCTV footage showing the assault to highlight police inaction. However, police officials clarified that a case of suspicious death has been registered. They said they are awaiting the postmortem and FSL reports before proceeding further with arrests or additional charges. Investigations are ongoing.

—BMB

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Echoes of a fading past

Hatworks Boulevard, iconic structure rooted in Bengaluru's colonial history, is set to be demolished for multi-storeyed development

KAUSHIK JN

Hatworks Boulevard is situated behind Imperial Court on Cunningham Road

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Hatworks Boulevard has lived in people's memories, and now it seems destined to remain there, says founder of heritage preservation initiative

At first glance, Hatworks Boulevard appears to be just another heritage structure, but behind its colonial-era facade lies a world of history and character. One of the few surviving mansions from the colonial period, it now faces the fate of many such landmarks in Bengaluru, set to make way for multi-storeyed development.

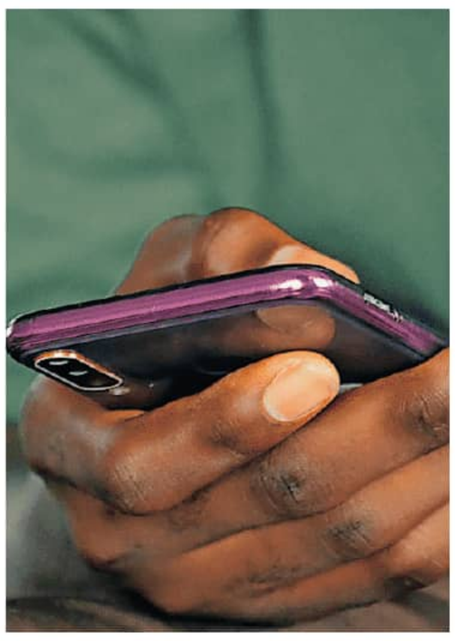
Nestled in a cool and serene enclave behind Imperial Court on Cunningham Road, Hatworks Boulevard is said to be around 180 years old and home to about 15 businesses. The heritage building is named after the Imperial Hatworks, started by England-trained master hat-cutter Nadir Maneckjee.

With plans now underway to demolish the colonial-era structure to make way for a high-rise, most tenants have agreed to cooperate with the property owner.

Bassam Osman of Studio Bassam described being part of Hatworks Boulevard as one of the most beautiful chapters in the studio's journey as a bespoke tailoring house. "For two decades, we were surrounded by an atmosphere rich with history, culture, style, and substance, an environment that perfectly reflected the values we hold close," said Osman. He expressed that every inch of the space carried a story and every corridor echoed with creativity. "We are deeply grateful to the Minocher family for welcoming us with warmth and generosity, and for hosting us with unwavering support for the past 20 years," said Osman. He said that their kindness and vision created a home for craftsmanship and community.

Priya Chetty-Rajagopal, founder of Heritage Beku, said the news about Hatworks Boulevard deeply saddened her, as it was one of the few heritage spaces that had been thoughtfully repurposed to remain accessible—housing restaurants, an art gallery, garden shops, jewellery stores, and more. "Hatworks Boulevard is a space in many people's minds and today it looks like that is where it will go back to being," she said. She opined that while one cannot dispute the descendants' need to move on, it would have been good if the government had stepped in. "It's also an important time for us at Heritage Beku to reiterate the criticality of property tax not being pegged to capital value — as then, even more heritage houses or spaces will go down the tube," she said. She said she hopes and prays that, beyond more active government support for heritage spaces, stronger efforts at repurposing and backing from consulates, luxury stores, and public institutions could help tilt the scales in favour of preserving Bengaluru's twin histories.

Telecom Dept warns against tampered SIM use



The Department of Telecommunications has issued a stern warning that anyone using a SIM card registered in their name for cybercrime or other illegal activities will be held accountable, even if the person committing the crime is someone else. Consumers are advised not to use mobile phones with tampered IMEI numbers or buy modems, modules, or SIM boxes with altered identifiers. Using a SIM card obtained through fake documents, fraud, or identity misuse, or lending it to others—especially cybercriminals—can result in serious legal consequences for the original registrant, who may be considered the offender.

The department also cautions against apps or websites that change caller line identity (CLI) or other telecom identifiers, as such tampering is punishable under the 2023 Telecom Act with up to 3 years imprisonment and a Rs 50 lakh fine. Under the 2024 Telecom (Cyber Security) Rules, IMEI tampering or using tampered devices is strictly prohibited. Consumers are urged to verify IMEI details via official portals or apps, which provide full device information including brand, model, and manufacturer, to avoid legal trouble.

Key precautions include keeping your SIM under your name, avoiding SIM boxes, and not lending your SIM to others, as misuse could make you liable for crimes you did not personally commit.

—BMB

IAS officer Mahantesh Bilagi, 2 others killed in Kalaburagi road accident

IAS officer Mahantesh Bilagi and two of his relatives died after their car crashed into a divider and overturned on Tuesday evening, police said.

According to police, Bilagi, Managing Director of the Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Ltd (KSMCL), was en route to attend his relative's wedding when the accident occurred near Gounahalli in Kalaburagi district. Mahantesh Bilagi, his relatives, Shankar Bilagi and Eranna Bilagi were killed.

Mourning his demise, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said Bilagi's passing has caused him immense grief.

"He had rendered honest service as the Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Panchayats in several districts and as a District Collector. Mahantesh had left his mark of efficiency everywhere he carried out his duties," the CM said.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar described him as an "efficient officer, who was renowned for his public service initiatives." He called Bilagi's death an "irreplaceable loss to society."

—PTI

Citizen pushback forces pause on GKVK campus flower market plan

Public objections, ecological concerns, and threats of student protests compel the government to reconsider the market and explore alternate locations near airport

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Bangalore Mirror
Neighbourhood Monitor
Not okay: Plan to turn serene campus into noisy marketplace

BM had carried a story on Monday about a group of students, alumni, farmers and concerned citizens meeting the dean of the UAS to submit a memorandum urging authorities to scrap project

"Facing growing resistance over tree loss and campus disruption, the Horticulture Department has halted the GKVK market proposal and begun scouting revenue land near the airport, as activists demand a complete scrapping

Faced with growing opposition from citizens, the Karnataka Government has decided to put the proposal of an international flower market within the Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra (GKVK) campus on hold. The market, earlier proposed on five acres of land inside the campus, is now expected to come up on revenue land near the airport, the Horticulture Department has informed.

"After objections were raised by the public, we had a meeting with other stakeholders and have decided to put the project proposed inside the GKVK campus on hold.

We are considering alternate locations, and in all probability, the market is now expected to come up on revenue land near the airport," said Dr Shamla Iqbal, Secretary to Government, Horticulture Department. She added that the Detailed Project Report was prepared based on availability of land within the GKVK campus, and alternate sites are now being examined.

Citizen groups and environmental activists who opposed the market inside the campus have welcomed the government's decision, calling it a necessary step to prevent the loss of green cover and research resources. "It's a good decision to move the proposed market to an alternate location. However, care should be taken to ensure minimal negative environmental and ecological impact," said Vijay Nishant, a city-based tree activist.

The project had sparked strong resistance from residents, activists and members of the academic community since its announcement, particularly over the proposed felling of 942 trees. Many of the trees listed for removal are important horticultural species that support student education, farmer training and ongoing research activities on the campus. Opponents argued that GKVK, being a dedicated research and education institution, is not an appropriate site for a commercial market.

A GKVK student said the campus community would continue to oppose any move to revive the original proposal.

"We will not allow this to happen. The project must be shifted completely. Students, with the support of locals, will protest if it goes ahead," the student said.

On November 24, a group of students, alumni, farmers, environmentalists and concerned citizens met the dean of the College of Horticulture at the University of Agricultural Sciences and submitted a memorandum urging the authorities to scrap the project permanently.

NCBS unlocks how worms master complex terrain

Researchers at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru, have developed a novel method to study how tiny worms navigate mechanically complex environments such as soil. Published in PRX Life, the work by Dr Tapomoy Bhattacharjee's group introduces a mechanically tunable three-dimensional platform that mimics the granular, irregular properties of natural soil. This innovation allows scientists to observe and track Caenorhabditis elegans—a millimetre-long worm widely used in genetics, developmental biology, and neurobiology—in real time as it moves through realistic terrain.

Traditionally, studies of C. elegans locomotion have relied on simplified setups like flat agar plates or liquid media, where worms exhibit two clear behaviours: crawling-like motion on solid surfaces and swimming-like motion in fluids. However, these systems fail to capture how the worms manoeuvre through the complex, resistive environments they encounter in nature.

Led by researchers Sreepadmanabh M and Saheli Dey, the NCBS team systematically varied the mechanical resistance of the 3D granular environment to understand how worms adapt. They observed that the worms unexpectedly increased their speed when their movement was initially constrained, before slowing down under highly resistive conditions. This ability to modify behaviour revealed a dynamic adaptability not previously documented.

Using a combination of experiments and mathematical modelling, the team showed that worms optimise their locomotion by smoothly transitioning from swimming-like to crawling-like motion depending on environmental resistance. According to Dr Bhattacharjee, the findings highlight how environmental mechanics shape behavioural strategies even in simple organisms. **BMB**

Posting-for-cash network driving graft in police force

Court rebukes and internal inquiries intensify as instances of POCSO-related bribery, extortion and misuse of power continue to expose systemic vulnerabilities

A series of scandals hit the police force, with the implication of constable Annappa Naik in the sensational ₹7.11-crore robbery that stunned the capital, turning out to be the worst of the cases, it has turned out that corruption has dug its roots in deep.

According to highly placed sources, the long-standing "posting-for-cash" network remains one of the biggest drivers of corruption. Officers allegedly pay political intermediaries to secure lucrative postings, and once in position, recover the money through bribes and unlawful activities. Though the racket is widely acknowledged behind closed doors, few dare speak about it publicly, allowing the cycle to persist and corrode the system from within.

Several officers now face departmental inquiries for violating duty norms, and many more are under surveillance. Complaints of misconduct surface almost weekly. In the latest case, on Tuesday, seven people, including two police sub-inspectors were arrested for allegedly threatening a jewellery artisan and robbing him of gold in Davangere.

Judicial bodies, too, have expressed concern: a Devanahalli woman PSI recently evaded a Lokayukta bribe-trap in a POCSO case, prompting stern observations from the special court about the entrenched "bribe culture" in police stations.

In another instance, bail orders related to a former Ramamurthynagar Inspector arrested for accepting bribes condemned the injustice faced by vulnerable communities due to rampant corruption.

Senior officers within the city commissionerate privately admit they are struggling to contain the rising tide of misconduct that has cast a shadow over an institution responsible for safeguarding more than a crore residents.

With 124 police personnel having been suspended over the last 10 months for corruption, dereliction of duty, and criminal activities—signalling a deepening credibility crisis within the department. The suspended officials include 10 Inspectors, 16 PSIs, 16 ASIs and 82 Constables. The allegations range from facilitating the sale of ganja and demanding bribes in POCSO cases to illegal detentions and extortion. Senior officials say the department is battling an image battered by recurring scandals, each further eroding public trust.

Taking note of the crisis, Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara recently convened a high-level review meeting and directed strict vigilance over station-level functioning. He warned that officers involved in criminal activities would be dismissed from service, not merely suspended.

Joint Commissioners and DCPs across all eight divisions have been instructed to closely monitor inspectors and staff as the department attempts to restore its damaged credibility. Officials say the coming months will be crucial, as the success of ongoing reforms depends on sustained oversight, stronger accountability, and visible improvement on the ground, without which public confidence may erode further. **BMB**

False implication: Accident claim denied due to delays

Plea seeking Rs 10L in damages rejected due to unexplained delay, missing papers, discrepancies

HIGH COURT

The Karnataka High Court has upheld a Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal (MACT) order denying compensation to an injured claimant, finding that the circumstances suggested the offending vehicle may have been falsely implicated in the alleged accident.

Justice P Sree Sudha dismissed the claimant's appeal, highlighting that the record suffered from unexplained delay and a lack of essential supporting documents. "The delay is not at all explained, and the injured party has not filed any certified copies of the FIR, complaint, spot panchanama, MV report, injury certificate, or the chargesheet," the Court observed.

The appellant had alleged that a motorcyclist hit him while riding on the wrong side, causing fractures. He sought Rs 10 lakh in compensation before the MACT, which rejected the claim. Challenging the decision, the appellant argued that the Tribunal had wrongly concluded that he failed to justify a 24-day delay in lodging the police complaint.

However, the insurer opposed the appeal, contending that the unexplained delay, coupled with discrepancies in the investigation records, supported its suspicion that the insured vehicle had been planted to secure compensation. It also questioned territorial jurisdiction, pointing out that both the claimant and the alleged accident were located in Maharashtra.

The High Court noted that the delay remained wholly unaccounted for and that the dates of the incident varied across the FIR, spot panchanama, and the chargesheet."There are so many discrepancies in the material documents regarding the date of the accident; the witnesses simply stated that it was a mistake or oversight. Considering that, the explanation cannot be accepted," the Court said.

Emphasising the claimant's burden of proof, the Court added that it was his responsibility to establish that the accident occurred, that the complaint was filed promptly, and that the offending vehicle was indeed involved.

Civil Rights cell has no authority to probe caste case

The High Court has held that the Civil Rights Enforcement (CRE) Cell has no authority to independently initiate investigations into the validity of caste certificates without a reference from the District Caste Verification Committee.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, allowing a petition filed by TH Hosamani, observed, "The Civil Rights Enforcement Cell does not have the power to undertake suo motu investigations into the caste certificate of the petitioner." The Court added that the statutory scheme is "unambiguous" in conferring investigative powers on the CRE Cell only upon a specific reference by the Verification Committee.

'No burial without permission'

The High Court observed that no person can be buried outside a designated burial ground without prior permission, warning that such acts could trigger serious law-and-order concerns.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj, hearing a petition filed by H Gopala Gowda, remarked, "This is a sensitive issue; if you allow this to happen, it would result in a law-and-order issue… It is not a simple question of one body being buried. It would have vast repercussions."

The petitioner has challenged a June 25, 2025 endorsement issued by the Assistant Commissioner, Revenue Department, Kolar Sub-Division, rejecting his request to exhume the body of his daughter-in-law. The woman was allegedly buried on his residential premises without his consent.

The petition claims the deceased, living separately amid pending matrimonial proceedings, died by suicide at her parents' home. Her family allegedly buried her on the petitioner's property without consent and built a tomb. The court noted that such actions breach statutory burial rules, stressing that burial or cremation is allowed only in designated locations unless explicit permission is granted.

CRIME FILES

Synthetic drug network bust: ₹24 crore loot off streets

City's CCB Anti-Narcotics Wing has busted a synthetic drug-peddling network, arresting a foreign national and seizing MDMA crystals, ecstasy pills, and raw materials worth nearly ₹23.74 crore, which were intended for supply at New Year's parties.

The accused, Ejike Nzegwu was found to be operating from a rented house. During the raid, officers recovered 11.640 kg of MDMA crystals, 1,040 ecstasy pills, 2.235 kg of raw materials used in drug preparation, and digital weighing scales. According to police, the foreign national entered India in 2017 on a business visa via Sri Lanka. After his visa expired, he continued to stay illegally in Bengaluru. To sustain himself, he became involved in drug peddling. His criminal history includes an NDPS case registered in 2019, for which he was jailed. After his release, he resumed drug trafficking, leading to another NDPS and Foreigners Act case filed in 2020 at Konanakunte Police Station. Police are investigating the house owner for illegally renting the property. **BMB**

₹37 lakh silver stolen, thief arrested within hours

Halasuru Gate police arrested a habitual offender within four hours of stealing 49 silver bars weighing 23.26 kg, valued at ₹37 lakh. The accused, identified as Syed Ayaz, a resident of Cottonpet and a coconut vendor, has a criminal history dating back to 2000.

According to police, the theft occurred on Saturday night when Amar Naganth's son, tasked with delivering the silver from their shop on Bettappa Lane to another outlet, briefly placed the bag containing the silver bars on the scooter's footboard. As he removed his helmet to place it in the boot, Ayaz, who had been trailing him, seized the moment, grabbed the bag, and fled in seconds. Ayaz has 50 cases registered against him, including robbery, theft, and housebreaking. Of these, 23 cases remain pending trial, and he is also listed as a rowdy-sheeter.

Police teams scanned CCTV footage from the locality to track Ayaz's movements, leading to his arrest. Investigators said Ayaz had been monitoring the victim's movements. **BMB**

Murder accused nabbed

The Madanayakanahalli police arrested a private firm employee, who allegedly strangled a 21-year-old woman to death at her house in Thammenahalli on Sunday.

The accused, Premavardhan from Chittoor was in a relationship with the victim, Devisri, who had moved to Bengaluru after her PU studies to pursue a BBA degree. Police said Premavardhan had recently become suspicious of her friendship with another man and had objected to her chatting with him.

When he met her on Sunday, the argument escalated and, in a fit of rage, he allegedly assaulted and strangled her.

Based on a complaint from Devisri's brother, a case was registered, and the police tracked the accused to Tirupati, where he had fled after the murder and even tonsured his head to hide his identity. **BMB**

INBRIEF

Lokayukta raids 10 govt officials

The Karnataka Lokayukta on Tuesday carried out statewide search-and-seizure operations, recovering assets worth ₹35.3 crore allegedly disproportionate to the income of 10 government officials.

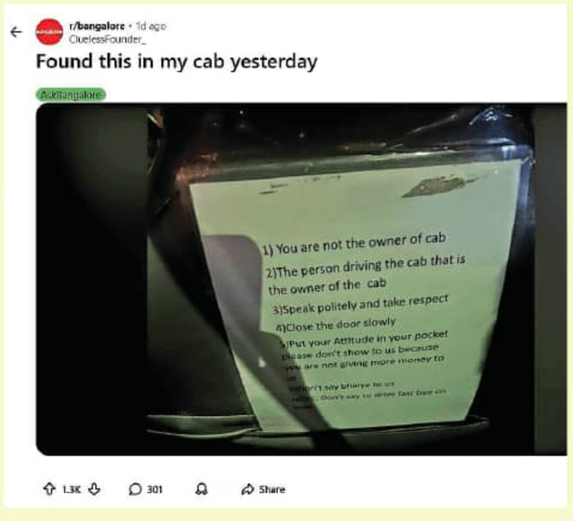
Raids were conducted across Bengaluru, Mysuru, Davanagere, Mandya, Bidar, Haveri, Dharwad, Gadag, Kodagu and Shivamogga, covering over 47 locations linked to the accused and their relatives, including homes, offices and other properties.

Those booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act include Krishnamurthy P (Electronic City RTO, Bengaluru – ₹4.2 crore), Ramaswamy C (Hootagalli Municipality, Mysuru – ₹2.77 crore), Prabhu J (APMC, Davanagere – ₹2.49 crore), Puttaswamy C (Municipality Office, Mandya – ₹4.3 crore), Prem Singh (KBJNL, Yadgir – ₹4.07 crore), Shekappa Sannappa Mattikatti (DUDC, Haveri – ₹5.36 crore), Subhashchandra Chandravva Natikar (Karnataka University, Dharwad – ₹3.11 crore), Sathish Ramanna Kattimani (Veterinary Clinic, Gadag – ₹2.09 crore), D.M. Girish (PWD, Madikeri – ₹4.26 crore) and Lakshmipathi C.N. (SIMS Medical College, Shivamogga – ₹2.49 crore). **BMB**

SOCIALTATTLE

That went viral

On Reddit forum r/bangalore a commuter in the city shares a cab driver's no-nonsense backseat rules: 'Don't call me bhaiya' being one of the rules displayed.


r/bangalore • 1d ago
CluelessFounder_
Found this in my cab yesterday
1) You are not the owner of cab
2)The person driving the cab that is the owner of the cab
3)Speak politely and take respect
4)Close the door slowly
1.3K
301
Share

Caleb @caleb_friesen2 · 3h
How to restore your footpath:
1. Take pic of footpath
2. Give pic to Nano Banana Pro, ask it to beautify
3. Input before/after pics into Veo 3.1 as start/end frames
4. Prompt: "time lapse construction, fast motion as construction workers beautify and restore the footpath"
HSR FOOTPATH
RESTORED

Ever wondered how to get footpaths in your area repaired? @caleb_friesen2 has got you covered. If all else fails, try the use of some technology, it would seem.

Caleb @caleb_friesen2 · 3h
Context: earlier this month I posted a vid about a bad footpath in HSR Layout, Bengaluru which runs parallel to Vibgyor School Rd.
Despite the original vid getting 700k views, no serious action has been taken, so I imagined what change might look like using Veo 3.1.
3
3
59
1.7K

Bangalore Mirror mentioned

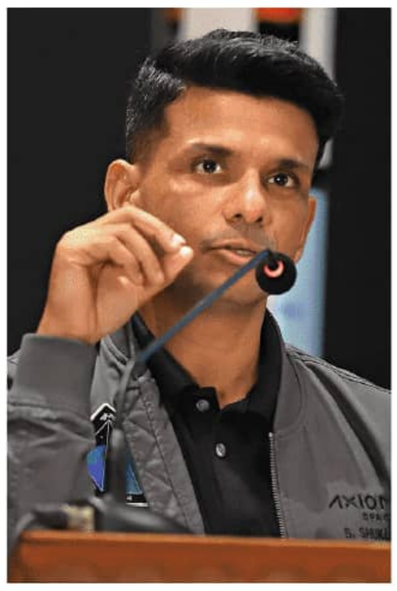
An X user is happy about the CDP Road finally taking shape

Stay fit & disciplined to reach space: Shubhanshu Shukla tells students

IAF Group Captain and astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla, while addressing students in Bengaluru on Tuesday, said that maintaining strong physical and mental health as well as bringing discipline into your life can help them become an astronaut representing the country like him.

"Maintaining strong physical and mental health—and bringing discipline into your life—can help you become an astronaut like me," Shukla said.

The Karnataka Department of Science and Technology organised an interactive session and felicitation ceremony for astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla at the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium, following the success of the Axiom Space-4 Mission, in which he was a key member.



During the programme, Shukla also presented a short video summarising his intensive training and his space journey, giving students a rare, first-hand glimpse into life as an astronaut.

Speaking about the future of India's space programme, the IAF Group Captain praised ISRO's Gaganyaan Mission, saying, "Gaganyaan is not just a mission -- it is India's declaration that we can achieve world-class space capability in our own way. We will be cost-effective without ever compromising on quality."

He fielded numerous questions from excited students and reminded them that spaceflight is the result of teamwork.

"I may appear as a hero to you today, but thousands of engineers, doctors and specialists made my mission possible. You can become any one of them," he said.

Shukla urged students to set high goals and work relentlessly toward them.

"Dream big -- but also adopt discipline," he told the children. "I trained for five years for a 20-day journey. Perseverance and patience are essential."

He also shared the harsh realities of space travel: the difficulty of adjusting to microgravity, struggling to stand after returning to Earth, and the extreme G-forces astronauts endure.

"In emergencies, the spacecraft can exert 18–20 GSAT—it feels like an elephant sitting on your chest," Shukla said.

Karnataka Minister for Minor Irrigation and Science and Technology, NS Boseraju, praised Shukla for elevating India's global scientific profile. **IANS**

One roadblock after the other for vulture centre

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We will do that as early as possible, preferably within one month," added Ray.

Owing to the dwindling population of various vulture species, mainly due to diclofenac, a veterinary NSAID, the Indian government in 2020 released the Action Plan for Vulture Conservation in India 2020-2025. The plan recommended the setting up of vulture hubs in each state in the country, including Karnataka. The centre at BBP is an outcome of the action plan.

However, the first-of-its-kind project has hit multiple roadblocks since work on it started in September 2021. The centre was first expected to be ready by May 2022. However, the deadline was pushed multiple times and was finally met only by early 2023. Later, the change in the definition of zoos under the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act of 2022, which came into force on April 1, 2023, delayed the project further. The forest department then had to wait for permission from CZA to get the project started.

"Following the standard procedure, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest in Karnataka spoke with the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest in Haryana in 2022 itself, and both officials agreed to the relocation of around 20 vultures from the Pinjore Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre in northern Haryana. A letter was also sent to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to obtain final permission for the process. However, the delay of many years may lead to reestablishing the talks all over again," said a KFD official.

The centre at BBP has two aviaries to house captive vultures for breeding. Once the birds lay eggs, the eggs will be moved to a brooder unit where they will be kept under regulated temperatures. Once the eggs hatch, the young ones will be taken care of at the centre till they are ready to be released into the wild.

Police officers told to inspect centres periodically

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as well as Hoysala patrol teams conduct regular checks. The Control Room DCP will monitor deployment twice daily and report on cases handled.

Staff at these outposts must keep a close watch on surrounding areas, take preventive measures, and respond immediately to women, children, or any member of the public seeking help. In serious cases such as rape or kidnapping, they must coordinate without delay with the jurisdictional police station and ensure access to the Nirbhaya Integrated Support Centre, Sakhi One-Stop Centre, and Critical Care Response Units.

Senior officers, including Police Inspectors, ACPs and DCPs, have also been asked to conduct periodic inspections to ensure accountability and streamline operations across all 60 centres.

'Staff shortage the major reason'

A senior police official told BM that the Neravu Mahila Kendras (women's outposts) were set up more than a year ago at many locations and are being effectively used in some areas. "However, at a few places, utilisation was poor due to staff shortage. We have instructed all police stations to properly maintain and manage these outposts. If women staff are unavailable, men can be deployed, but the outpost must function. They should attend to any complaint, especially since these centres are placed in crowded areas where women and children may need immediate assistance," the officer said.

The official added that citizens can always call 112 to report an issue, but if they come across a Neravu Kendra while travelling, they should be able to approach it directly. "Sometimes, due to bandobast duties and manpower shortage, personnel may not be present. That is why the Commissioner has directed that proper staffing must be ensured," the official added.

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I, DASAPPA SREENATH residing at 287, 2nd Main Road, Behind Panchat Hall, Hebbal, Bengaluru – 560024. I have changed my name to SREENATH BETTALASURU DASAPPA. Vide affidavit dated 24/11/2025 sworn before notary. S N Madhu Bengaluru

I, Govindraj V s/o venkatappa D,#224 doorvaninagar Bengaluru 560016, I have change my name to Govindaraju V

I Insiya R/o 104, Stellar Meadows, Bohra Layout, Gottigere, Bangalore 560083, have changed my name to Insiya Khandwala

I Prabhat S/O, Vigneshwara Hegde R/o Tyagli Post, Siddapura Taluk, Mattihalli, Uttara Kannada - 581340 Karnataka have changed my name to Prabhat Hegde.

I HARIPREEYIA PARTHASARATHY HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HARIPREEYIA VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED 21/11/2025 BEFORE NOTARY B R SHASHIKALA

I Prakash Aralikatti S/O, Basavaraj R/o N0-304,11th Cross,akkayamma Temple,muneshwara Layout,attur,yelahanka-560064 have changed my name to Prakash Basavaraj Aralikatti.

I, Mariya Nirmal W/O Nirmal Davis Vadakkethala R/o # C-501, C Block Sumadhura Nandanam, Hoodi Main Road, KR Puram, hoodi, B'lore-560048 have changed my name to Mariya Thomas for all purposes.

I, Jayalakshmi Chennappa, W/o. Ramachandra Reddy S V, R/o. Dharshan R Nilaya, 16th Crs, Chennappa Reddy L/O, Opp. RJS School, Roopena Agrahara, Blr-068, have changed my name to Jayalakshmi for all purposes.

I, ANUPRIYA, W/o Vineet Mishra, residing at Prestige Shantiniketan, Flat #20161, ITPL Main road, Bengaluru-560048 have changed my name to ANUPRIYA MISHRA, vide affidavit dt: 25.11.2025 before notary S.I Balaguru, Bengaluru

I, ALIYA SIDDIQA D/O MOHAMMED KHAISAR, Residing at No 409, Jakkur Colony, Jakkur Layout, Near Sobha Windfall Apartment, Bangalore North - 560064, have changed my name from ALIYA SIDDIQUA To ALIYA SIDDIQA.

I, Subarna Bandyopadhyay, W/o. Avishek Banerjee, Aged 36 yrs, Flat #001, NR Pearl Apt, Site #35 & 36, Kothnur Lake View L/o, JP Nagar, 8th Phase, Blr-076, have changed my name to SUBARNA BANERJEE vide affidavit Dt: 25/11/25 before Notary M. Rajendra, Blr.

I,SHREYAL Liladhar Gajare R/o.C2, JJ Homes,8th cross, Abbaiah Reddy Layout, B'luru 560093 have changed my name to Shreyal Umesh Borole for all purposes.

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THE SECRET DEBITS OF MUM LIFE

Motherhood costs more than wages—mums quietly bear the hidden burden

Mothers are not only losing out on income, promotions and career progression — something well documented for years — they are also quietly spending more of their own money, absorbing day-to-day household costs and making financial sacrifices that place them at a long-term disadvantage. The impact of motherhood on women's earnings is well established. A 2015 study by Statistics Canada found that mothers earn just 85 cents for every dollar earned by fathers. Ten years after the birth of their first child, mothers' earnings remain around 34.3 per cent lower than they would have been without children.

However, our research reveals that motherhood also rewires women's financial thinking. Having children changes not only their income but their emotional relationship with money, financial decision-making and everyday spending patterns. Mothers we interviewed described two competing narratives around their finances. On one hand, they see motherhood as a financial project that must be managed responsibly within budgets and cost-benefit limits. On the other hand, they view motherhood as a role built on sacrifice, where children's needs take priority over personal financial considerations.

Motherhood comes with a cost. Prior research shows that becoming a mother negatively affects women's finances and career prospects. Some studies suggest that colleagues and employers may view mothers as less committed or less competent in professional settings. Many women also experience increased work-life pressure, often shifting into part-time employment to manage childcare responsibilities. Women are 19 times more likely than men to cite "caring for children" as their primary reason for working part-time.

Beyond this well-documented "motherhood penalty", our qualitative study shows that motherhood transforms how women relate to and manage money. We interviewed mothers in the Canadian province of Québec to understand how having children influences their spending habits, division of financial responsibilities and financial planning. Participants consistently described navigating two competing social expectations: managing the costs of children efficiently while also demonstrating the selflessness expected of "good" mothers.

On one hand, many mothers see themselves as autonomous and responsible financial managers. They create budgets, track spending and make detailed financial plans for their households. One participant explained: "Everything goes through my account. I manage everything. I like it that way too. I'm a very meticulous person, I like to be in control of the budget." This approach leads some mothers to track expenses meticulously, compare prices for essentials such as nappies, set aside money for future educational costs and attempt to handle household budgeting independently.

This desire for control and responsibility can also result in mothers taking on child-related expenses without involving their partners. Several participants said they often purchased clothing, food, school supplies or family activities using their own money, sometimes without informing the other parent. One participant noted: "I know that I will buy more things for the children. I put them on my card so I know that there are more expenses that I incur as extras... But at the same time, that's what I like. I love shopping for them. It's a gift for me too."

However, this sense of responsibility operates alongside a second cultural script — the expectation that a "good mother" is self-sacrificing. Many women in the study described motherhood as a role in which children always come first and where financial sacrifices are not something to measure or question. One participant shared: "That's what being a good mum is all about, you can't count that. You don't count the time, being present, taking care of them, the activities, the clothes, everything. You don't count the expenses, you're the person they go to."

This emotional framework can lead mothers to prioritise children's futures over their own long-term financial security, such as setting aside money for education but delaying retirement savings. Some spend on non-essential purchases that make their children happy, even when doing so limits their own financial flexibility. Many also resist calculating the full cost of raising children, as though placing a monetary value on parental labour would contradict the cultural expectation of maternal devotion.

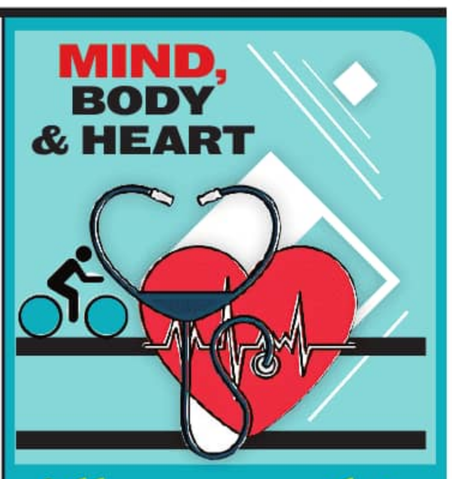
Over time, these patterns have serious consequences. They help explain the persistent gaps between men's and women's financial security. In Canada, the gender pension gap stands at around 17 per cent, meaning that for every dollar of retirement income received by men, women receive only 83 cents. The additional mental load that mothers carry is not just emotionally taxing — it has material effects on savings and long-term wealth accumulation.

Many mothers take on most child-related financial duties, which reduces their savings and increases long-term financial vulnerability.

As children grow, reduced earnings, career slowdowns and delayed retirement savings weaken mothers' long-term financial security, widening the wealth gap and leaving many with fewer resources later in life.

Motherhood's cost extends beyond lost wages, involving unseen emotional and financial labour like budgeting and managing children's needs. Society must recognise this work and push for policies that protect mothers and encourage fairer sharing at home.

(By Oriane Couchoux, Carleton University and Gabrielle Patry-Beaudoin, University of Sherbrooke, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Morning gut gains

The morning payoff: how mindful habits boost health and mood

Your morning routine does more than help you wake up—it quietly shapes how your gut performs all day. From boosting energy to enhancing mood and immunity, your gut is central to well-being. As Dr. Neerja Hajela, Chief Scientific Officer, Yakult Danone India, explains, "Your gut is home to trillions of microbes that influence everything from metabolism to mental health." Mornings help kickstart digestion and support a healthy gut; small habits can boost nutrient absorption and overall wellness.

Hydrate first: After sleep, your body is slightly dehydrated. A glass of warm or room-temperature water "gently stimulates digestion and supports detoxification," says Dr. Neerja. Add lemon or soaked chia seeds for antioxidants, fibre, and nutrients.

Morning calm: Stress affects the gut. Stretching, deep breathing, meditation, or gratitude can regulate cortisol and promote smoother digestion.

Probiotic boost: Beneficial bacteria are crucial. Probiotic-rich foods at breakfast strengthen digestion, boost nutrient absorption, and support immunity.

Gut breakfast: Fibre, healthy fats, and protein feed beneficial bacteria and maintain energy. Include oats, fruits, nuts, yoghurt, or legumes.

Move daily: Light activity like walking, yoga, or stretching stimulates digestion and eases bloating. Aim for 15–20 minutes daily.

Mindful stimulants: Coffee on an empty stomach can irritate the gut. Pair it with breakfast or opt for herbal tea.

Body signals: Bloating, heartburn, or sluggish digestion signal what's not working. Adjust your routine accordingly. **— Femina**

MIRRORLIGHTS

New study shows heart risk tools fail nearly half at-risk patients

The cardiac screening tools currently in use may be missing 45 per cent of people at actual risk of heart attacks, according to a new study.

The study, led by Mount Sinai researchers in the US, revealed a major flaw in patient care and showed that relying on risk scores and symptoms alone may not help prevent heart attacks.

The results, published in a brief report in JACC: Advances, emphasised the need to focus on silently building plaque.

"Our research shows that population-based risk tools often fail to reflect the true risk for many individual patients," said corresponding author Amir Ahmadi, Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine (Cardiology) at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

"If we had seen these patients just two days before their heart attack, nearly half would not have been recommended for further testing or preventive therapy guided by current risk estimate scores and guidelines," Ahmadi added.

A study assessed the widely used ASCVD risk score and the newer PREVENT tool, which adds variables for a more comprehensive cardiovascular risk estimate. Data from 474 patients under 66 with no known coronary artery disease showed that nearly half of first-heart-attack patients would have been classified as low or borderline risk by ASCVD, and over half by PREVENT, missing preventive therapy. Overall, 45% (ASCVD) and 61% (PREVENT) would not have received recommended preventive measures. Most patients (60%) developed symptoms less than two days before their event, suggesting risk scores and symptoms often appear too late. Early imaging may better detect silent atherosclerosis.

—IANS

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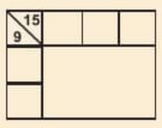
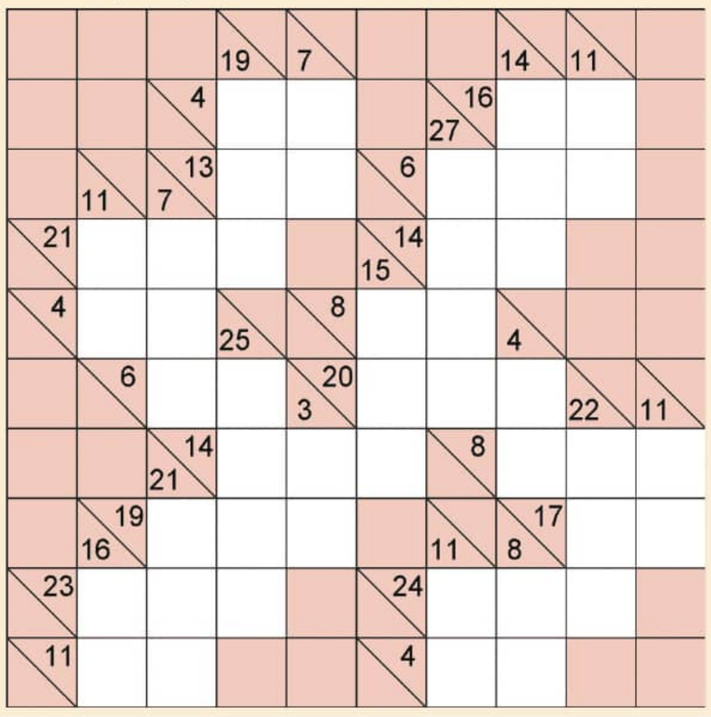
Kakuro

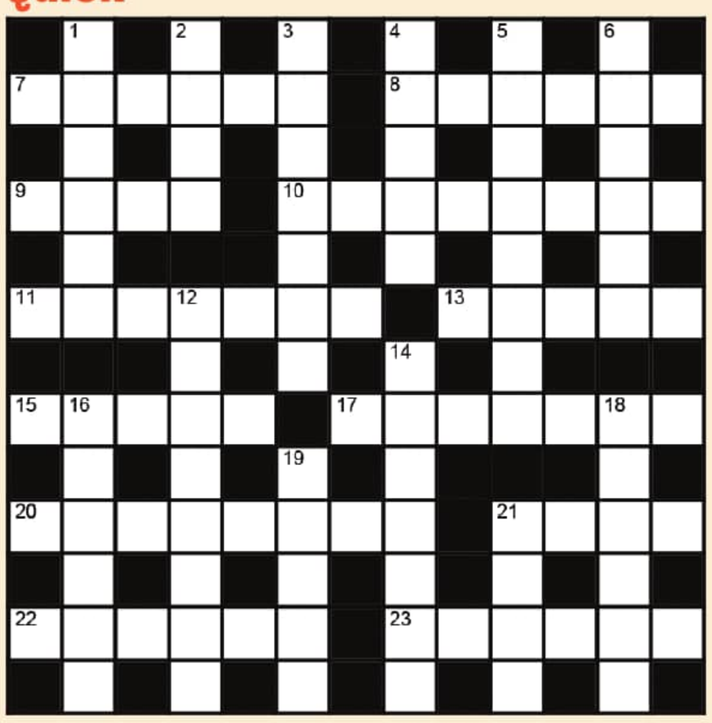
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Mr Jackson of Hollywood (6)
8 Employs again (6)
9 English exclamation (1,3)
10 Inexplicable but very welcome events (8)
11 Vehicle carrying condemned persons during French Revolution to place of execution (7)
13 Very light wood (5)
15 Ex-India batsman ___ Ali Baig (5)
17 The former New Hebrides (7)
20 Withdraws (5,3)
21 Famous educational institution on Bannerghatta road (3-1)
22 Remained (6)
23 Hollywoods ___ Stone (6)

DOWN

1 Capital of the Bahamas (6)
2 Official obligation (4)
3 Original games site (7)
4 Ten million, especially in India (5)
5 The Karate sticks? (8)
6 At sixes and ____ : in confusion or disagreement? (6)
12 Shiner (5-3)
14 Toy dog breed (7)
16 Brags (6)
18 I have __ __ my hands : I am at leisure, in a way? (4,2)
19 Prods or spurs (5)
21 Apples tablet (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: L EQUALS S

DFSCS HL AX GHLHAOSEDBAD PHYS LNEESLL.

Linemaro

You look familiar. Didn't we take a class together? I could swear we had chemistry

Mindchow

The difference between stumbling blocks and stepping stones is how we use them

Joke of the day

Football manager Dave Merrington: Kevin Keegan has now tasted the other side of the fence.

Loop

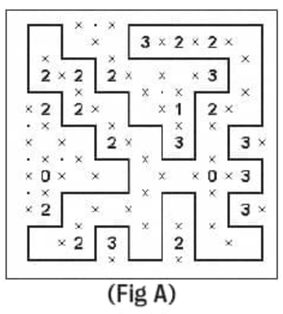
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

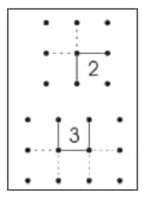
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

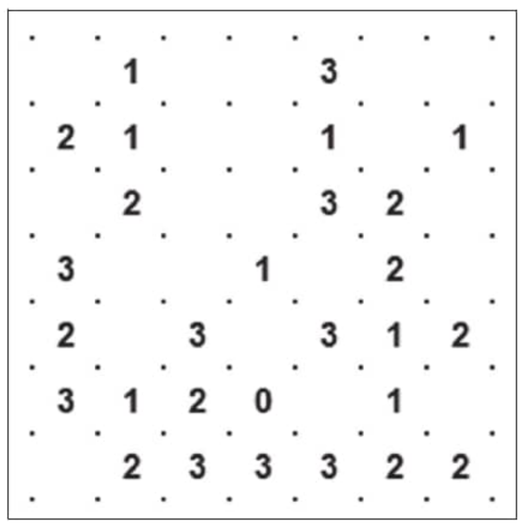
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



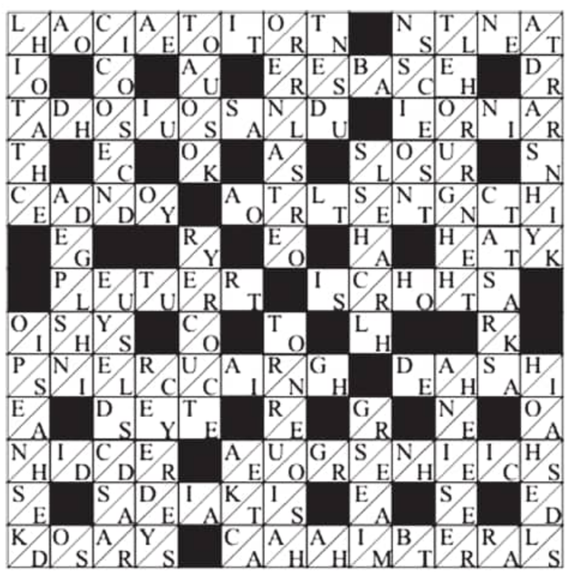
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4 B	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

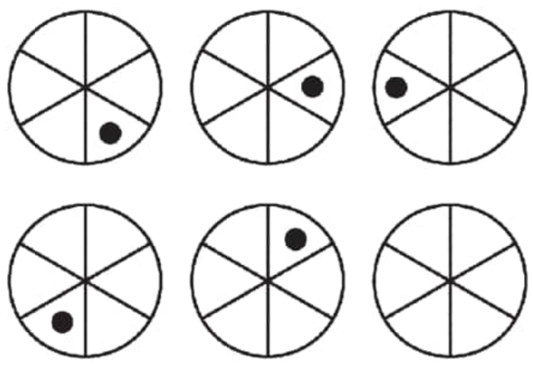
1 As cub; 6 Tonal;
7 Voter; 8 Me ism;
9 A Lyra

DOWN

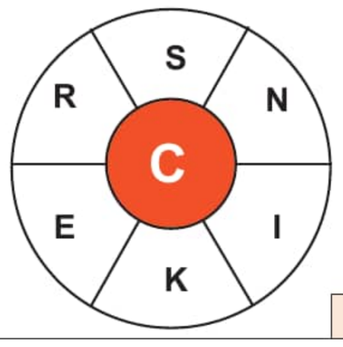
1 Atoms; 2 C L Avi;
3 A mule; 4 Reb or;
5 Nasty

Mensapuzzle

Draw the dot in the correct segment of the last circle.



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

9			5	6	3			4
		7		4		3		
		5	8		2	6		
7								6
	6		1		7		9	
1								7
		3	7		6	2		
		1		9		4		
2			3	1	4			5

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 7

3 4 8 8

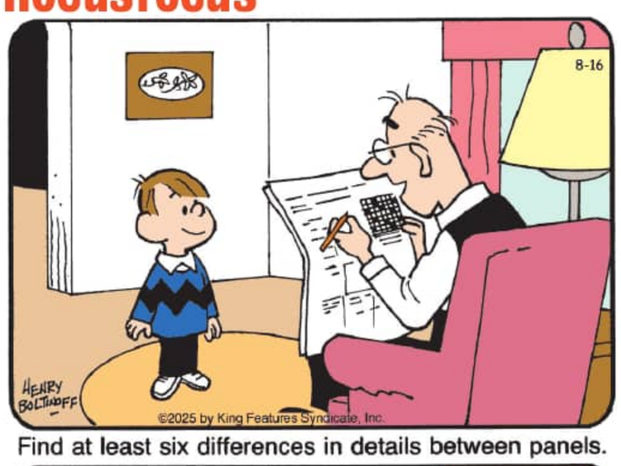
Medium = 23

1 7 8 8

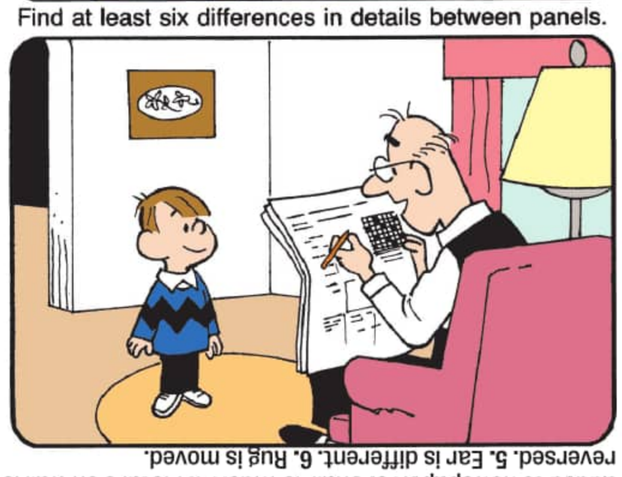
Hard = 1

1 2 4 6

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



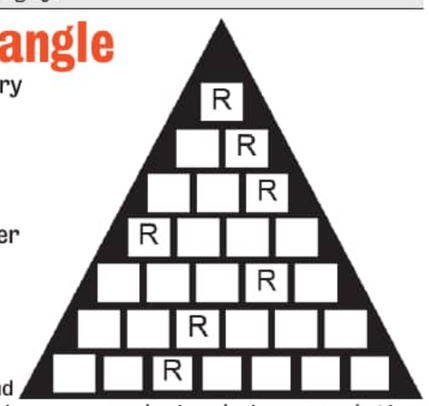
Differences: 1. Arm of chair is not as long. 2. Page is added to newspaper. 3. Chair is wider. 4. Picture on wall is reversed. 5. Ear is different. 6. Rug is moved.

Riddler

Marvin and Loren are exploring a forest in Queensland. They spotted a nice rainbow earlier, and then decided to go see the wildlife near the river. Loren spots a weird but harmless looking mammal and goes for a closer look. Marvin yells to be careful because it is venomous. Loren laughs, thinking Marvin must be joking. Unfortunately Loren gets too close and is stung in the hand. Loren starts to cry out in pain. Marvin comes over to Loren to tell him how stupid he is, but at least the venom is not lethal. What did Loren get stung by?

Alpha triangle

1 Radius in geometry
2 Either
3 High hill
4 Deteriorates
5 Stockpile
6 Wooded area
7 Doesn't remember



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

THIS CREATURE IS A---
IT IS A COMMON JEEP!
YOU MAY CALL IT A JEEP, BUT WE KNOW IT AS A GERF!
IT IS AN EXTINCT SPECIES!
'AT'S A BLASTID INSULK! EUGENE IS AS HEALKTHY AS YOU AN' ME!
JEEP!
BUD SAGENDORF
2-25
popeye.com
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Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

SURE, I CAN TAKE A PICTURE OF YOU, BUT IF YOU WANT A SELFIE, YOU HAVE TO TAKE IT YOURSELF...
THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED A "SELFIE"
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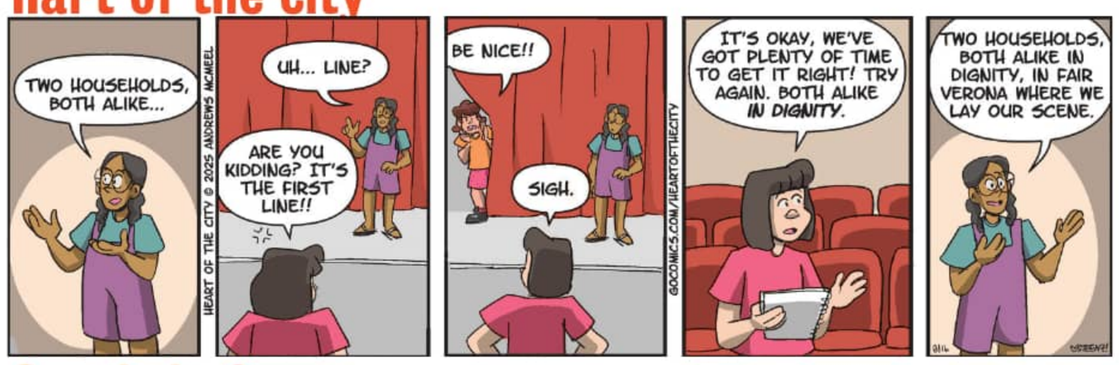
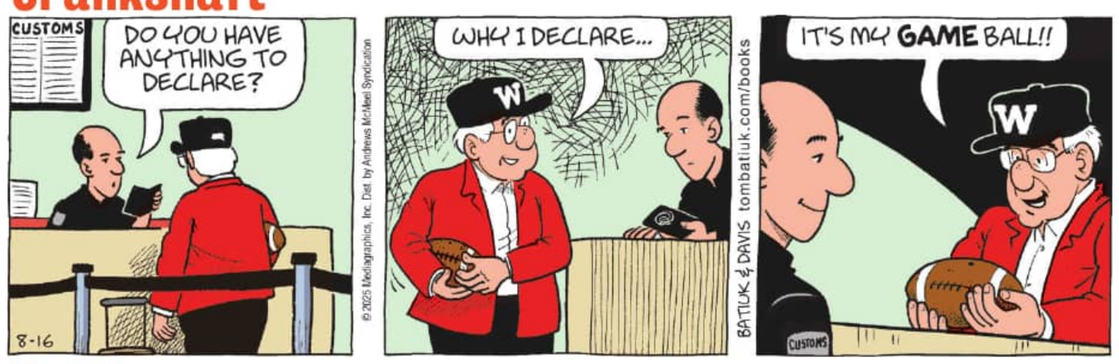
Beatkett

Hart of the city


TWO HOUSEHOLDS, BOTH ALIKE...
UH... LINE?
ARE YOU KIDDING? IT'S THE FIRST LINE!!
BE NICE!!
SIGH.
IT'S OKAY, WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME TO GET IT RIGHT! TRY AGAIN. BOTH ALIKE IN DIGNITY.
TWO HOUSEHOLDS, BOTH ALIKE IN DIGNITY, IN FAIR VERONA WHERE WE LAY OUR SCENE.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


CUSTOMS
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO DECLARE?
WHY I DECLARE...
IT'S MY GAME BALL!!
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BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
8-16

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Career success is found through quiet, diligent work behind the scenes; public praise will follow later. Finances are very sound; a solid, well-kept budget keeps you reliably on track all year. Love is tender and selfless; giving generously brings you much closer to your partner. Family life brings peace through organising and simplifying your shared home.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Slow down. It's time to unwind, reconnect, and nurture your passions. Appreciate life's small, beautiful moments; true magic lies in stillness and love, not constant movement or restless striving.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Wake up, the universe nudges you toward balance and clarity. Stop waiting, adapt your approach, and act decisively. You're not trapped; seeing things objectively unlocks freedom, opportunity, and growth.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Too many duties exhaust your spark. Pause, breathe, and recharge, even briefly. Peace must be chosen intentionally, not delayed. Loved ones bring joy; rest restores both energy and perspective.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

You've outgrown walking on eggshells. Stay kind yet firm. Living by your truth aligns destiny with grace. Integrity opens doors; your strength inspires harmony and healing for all.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Dreams need courage. The plan is set, now leap forward. Consistent, focused action transforms passion into reality. Progress unfolds when boldness meets steady, practical dedication toward tangible goals.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Release anxiety; clarity comes through creativity and intellect combined. Positive transformation approaches; leave emotional baggage behind. Growth and optimism await when you embrace change with lightness and trust.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Fear dissolves through movement. Enough reflection; it's time to act. Trust intuition over external validation. Courage will anchor you, revealing strength, clarity, and purpose through bold, inspired action.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Stop letting external pressures dim your fire. Redefine success on your terms. Hope and optimism guide renewal; trust your inner strength and allow imagination to lift your wings higher.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Rise above deceit. Defend your truth with conviction. Hidden options surround you; choose the path that feels light and free. Confidence and integrity create impact and lasting fulfilment.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Confront unfairness bravely. Maintain ethics even amid chaos. Leadership means standing firm despite opposition. By upholding integrity, you reclaim strength, clarity, and selfrespect while transforming heavy challenges gracefully.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Commit wholeheartedly. Life rewards bold participation, not hesitation. Whether in love or purpose, give your all. Stop waiting for perfect timing; this moment invites decisive movement.

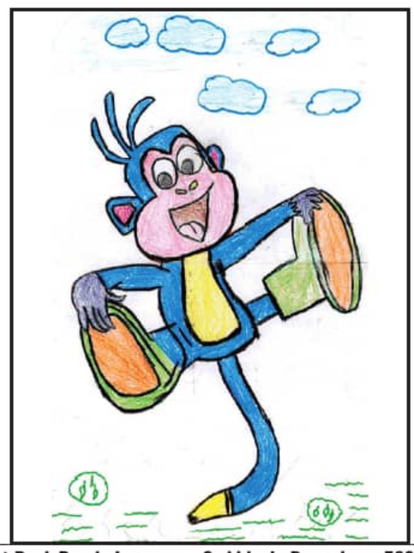
Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Conflicting desires reveal imbalance. Reflect deeply and realign with true purpose. Avoid material overload; seek harmony through belonging, community, and selfawareness. Reclaim control of desires and find peace.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Rhea, Bengaluru



Chandana, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

(5 * (90)^2) / (9 * 3600)
40500 / 32400 = 5/4

QUOTE UNCODE

There is no disinfectant like success.

FAST FIVE

S	C	U	B	A
T	A	L	O	N
O	V	E	R	T
M	I	M	E	S
A	L	A	R	Y

BULL'S EYE

neck, nice, nicer, nick, rice, sick, sicken, sicker, since, SNICKER

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE

Working in rows from left to right, the dot moves anticlock wise by one segment, then clockwise by three.

RIDDLER

Duckbill Platypus.
Male platypuses have venomous spurs.

SUDOKU

2	8	6	3	1	4	9	7	5
5	7	1	2	9	8	4	6	3
4	9	3	7	5	6	2	8	1
1	3	9	6	2	5	8	4	7
8	6	4	1	3	7	5	9	2
7	5	2	4	8	9	1	3	6
3	4	5	8	7	2	6	1	9
6	2	7	9	4	1	3	5	8
9	1	8	5	6	3	7	2	4

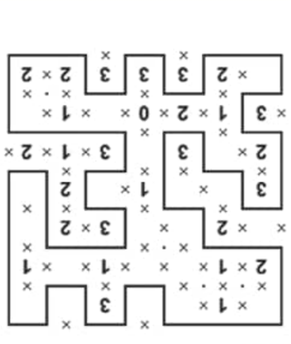
ALPHA TRIANGLE

R, Or, Tor, Rots, Store, Forest, Forgets.

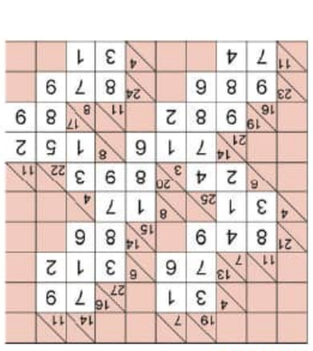
GO FIGURE

Easy
4 + 3 − 8 + 8 = 7
Medium
8 + 7 + 8 x 1 = 23
Hard
2 x 4 − 6 − 1 = 1

LOOP



KAKURO



Volume No 18, Issue No 232 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

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New

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New

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New

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8 speaker system

New

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